

ClydeFEST promises springtime fun



Above, at ClydeFEST 2005, Mary Easley presents Clyde Jones with a Certificate of Appreciation. At right, Jones puts some finishing touches on one of his sculptures. PHOTOS BY JOHN SHILLITO

By Gilda McDaniel

Spring in Chatham brings the welcome return of all sorts of old-fashioned goodness – rolling green pastures, singing birds, happy children and ClydeFEST. ClydeFEST is ChathamArts' signature spring art event honoring beloved Chatham folk artist Clyde Jones and the children of Chatham and beyond. Now in its eighth year, ClydeFEST promises to be the best fest to date as we fully adopt Clyde's motto "It's all about the kids."

ClydeFEST 2008 was a landmark year for the festival when it found its natural home just up the road from Clyde's house, Critter Crossing, at the ball field in the heart of Bynum. That ball park was the inspiration for a whole new look for the festival as the good folks of Bynum, including Mr. Jones himself, constructed a collection of handmade games and activities perfectly suited to an old-timey country fair setting. The results were magical!

ClydeFEST 2009 will expand by adding a greater line-up of special guests, performers, artists and local non-profit booths, all providing activities for kids to enjoy and crafts for them to take home. Each day of planning brings new and exciting additions to the roster.

The day's main attraction is of course Clyde Jones, the internationally known chainsaw artist who hails from Bynum. Clyde will help his guests paint "cut-outs" of critters that he personally prepares for the event. The day will culminate with a critter carving demonstration and an auction of the new piece. Joining Clyde will be his dear friend Peter Loose, the acclaimed folk artist from Hull, Georgia, who drives the artfully decorated ClydeMobile which brings his enormous African turtles to town.

ChathamArts is excited to announce Immaculate Baking Company of Flat Rock, NC, will join the FESTivities this year. Immaculate Baking is known for their awesome organic cookies with packaging that features folk art masterpieces. A percentage of cookie sales go toward their Folk Artists Foundation. Immaculate Baking will be on-site with delicious cookies shaped like Clyde's penguins, for children to decorate and bake. (Ask them how they made the World's Largest Cookie!)



On our Big Stage we will host local musical legends Baron Von Rumblebuss, Tommy Edwards and Friends, and promising new talent from NC Girls Rock. Ubi the Clown will delight the crowds with balloon sculptures and good cheer. We'll also have face painting, storytelling, hula hoopin', magicians and fortune tellers. Oh my!

On Artists Alley, each of our local Artist Volunteers, such as Sue Szary of the NC Arts Incubator in Siler City, will work with children to create a masterpiece to take home, focusing on natural, recycled and repurposed materials.

ChathamArts is joined this year by the NC Botanical Garden in our non-profits area, which will also include The Haw River Assembly, among others. These exhibitors will provide educational activities for children as well as share information about their important missions.

New this year will be the Students Art Exhibit, showing the work of local students based on their impressions of Clyde's work.

Scrumptious food will be provided by Maple View Dairy (cookies and ice cream), Chatham Marketplace, The Barbecue Joint and Barney's Hot Dogs.

Mark your calendars, round up kids of all ages and join ChathamArts at the Bynum Ballfield on Saturday, April 25 from 11-4. Admission is \$7 for adults and \$3 for children. Adult admission provides entry to a raffle for a Clyde Gator. Rain date is April 26 from 1-5. Bynum is the funky mill village that time forgot just off of 15-501 just north of the Haw River.

ChathamArts is very grateful to sponsors Weaver Street Realty, Crook's Corner, and Captain John's Dockside Restaurant. Visit all of these fine establishments often!

For more information visit www.chathamarts.org.

Gilda McDaniel is President, ChathamArts Board of Directors and a member of team ClydeFEST.

EARLY VOTING Thurs., April 16 – Sat., May 2 in Pittsboro

Eat, Drink, & Raise Revenues!

Vote on May 5th FOR the county-wide referendum on Mixed Beverage Sales and vote...

- ✓ **for additional Tax Revenues without raising taxes**
- ✓ **for our Local Businesses to be competitive and thrive**
- ✓ **for Job Growth and to Attract New Businesses**
- ✓ **for agricultural, and cultural Travel & Tourism and the jobs they will bring**
- ✓ **for Economic Revitalization for all towns in Chatham**

for more info: www.chathamvote4mixedbeverages.org

Vote for Mixed Beverage Sales
(a.k.a. "Liquor by the Drink")

Voter Registration Deadline . . . Friday, April 10

Election Day . . . Tuesday, May 5th

at county-wide precincts

One-stop, Early voting . . . Thursday, April 16 – Saturday, May 2

Monday – Friday 8am–7:30 pm

Saturday 10am–2pm

ONLY at Pittsboro Board of Elections Office

984 Thompson St., Suite D, Pittsboro

across from the YMCA, but is on the

Thompson St. side of Platinum Commons

For more info: call Board of Elections at 919-545-8500

CHATHAM
Vote
4 Mixed
Beverages

Let's Raise a Toast to Chatham's Future!

The public is invited to information sessions on the referendum to be held at the following Chatham County establishments. Support Local! Buy Local!

THURSDAY, APRIL 9
The Bean and Barrel
50100 Governors Drive
North Chatham

FRIDAY, APRIL 17
Compadres
115 Siler Crossing
Siler City

SATURDAY APRIL 11
The City Tap
89 Hillsboro Street
Pittsboro

FRIDAY, MAY 1
Carolina Brewery
120 Lowes Drive
Pittsboro

Paid for by Positive Revenue Options (PRO)